



Facts

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Actions Taken to Prevent BSE in the United States

The following actions have been taken to help keep Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) from occurring, and if it should occur, to keep it from spreading. BSE affects the central nervous system of cattle and always results in death. There is strong evidence that BSE is mainly, if not entirely, spread through feed. This disease has never been found in the United States in spite of active surveillance for the disease.

1986

BSE identified as a new and separate disease.

http://cofcs66.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/pubs/fsheet_faq_notice/faq_ahimpbsh.pdf and
http://cofcs66.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/pubs/fsheet_faq_notice/fs_ahvtsheeptr.pdf

1987

BSE made a reportable disease. Suspect cases are to be reported by local veterinarians to the State Veterinarian, and the United State Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Services (USDA, APHIS) Veterinarian.

- BSE surveillance of cattle intensified.
- Inspections at renderers, feed mills, protein blenders, feed haulers, and farms for compliance with BSE feed rule began.

1989

Importation of live ruminants and most ruminant products from countries where BSE is known to exist in native cattle is prohibited.

2000

Importation of all rendered animal protein from 31 countries is prohibited. These countries are either known to have BSE in their cattle, or because of inadequate preventive measures within their countries, are considered to present undue risk for introducing BSE into the United States.

1990

Active USDA surveillance program for BSE began. Cattle that exhibit signs of central nervous system disease are targeted. For details of activities see the USDA APHIS BSE Surveillance website at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/issues/bse/bse-surveillance.html>.

2001

- USDA surveillance program for BSE expanded to include all cattle that are non-ambulatory at slaughter.
- Importation of live ruminants, ruminant meat, meat products and other ruminant protein products from Japan prohibited.

1997

- Importation of live ruminants and most ruminant products from all of Europe prohibited.
- Feeding rule issued that prohibits the use of most mammalian proteins as feed for ruminants.

2002

- USDA inspectors began taking routine regulatory samples of products using meat removed from vertebral columns by advanced meat recovery (AMR) systems.

1998

- Quarantine of 2 sheep flocks imported from Europe with possible exposure to BSE. For further information on the outcome of the sheep, visit USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services TSE In Vermont Sheep website at:

2003

- Importation of ruminants and most ruminant products from Canada prohibited.